

ARE WE READY?

Election day draws nigh. What have we done in the way of preparation for it? Have all the qualified Conservative voters in our precincts registered? Where are the registration books? Remember the Radical trick of losing the registration books! Has any preparation been made for bringing to the polls the feeble and the cripple who cannot walk, and have no way to ride?

Have we urged upon the lawbreaker and indifferent the importance of going to the polls?

TUESDAY, 5th, the people of the United States will be called upon to meet a great crisis in their fortunes.

We hold our fate in our own hands, and can make or mar our destiny at will, but, to use a homely phrase, "as we make our way to the top, we must be there to stay."

We know the issues presented to us, and we know the men who are claiming office and honor at our hands.

He who runs may lose the election of Greeley guarantees the restoration of civil government, peace and reconciliation, and that the re-election of Grant guarantees a continuance of arbitrary bayonet rule and despotism on the part of both State and Federal governments.

Never did a people have greater inducements to give expression to their wishes in regard to the conduct and policy of their government.

There is a clear white majority of more than fifty-five thousand voters in North Carolina. Nine-tenths of the white people belong to the Conservative party. Is it their purpose to exercise that power, or will they delegate it to the carpet-baggers and scallawags who control the colored people?

Prosperity of the South.
New York is jubilant over the marked revival of her Southern trade, consequent upon the recovery of the South from the long season of depression which followed the war and reconstruction. The *Evening Mail* tells us: "For almost every class of merchandise the orders have been 'larger and the quality of goods better' than for many years past, and there 'seems to be an unbroken ability and readiness to pay cash or to ask only very short credit.' Actual investigation shows that the increase in business with the different Southern States varies from 'twenty-five to fifty per cent.' of the whole 'amount for the past seasons. Not only does the demand for more and better merchandise excite a growing prosperity, but the call for agricultural implements 'and machinery shows that the people are 'tarnished upon a solid basis.'"

Capt. Shotwell—The Mobile Tribune.
The Mobile Tribune commends to us the use of our "spectacles," and thinks that had we carefully read its article we would not have volunteered our defense of Captain Shotwell, for the reason that we would have seen that no attack had been made upon him.

We are more happy to take this view of the case, and we assure the *Tribune* that we never attributed the injustice that was done to Captain Shotwell, as it seemed to us without our "spectacles," to anything more than an unfortunate instance of "careless journalism," and even then we felt free to say that we were at a loss to say whether our surprise or our regret was the greater, at finding such injustice done so gallant a gentleman in the columns of the *Tribune*.

It seemed to us that the effect of the *Tribune* article was to create an erroneous and a damaging impression in regard to an unfortunate gentleman, who happens to have been selected as a victim of radical malice and radical villany. If we were too quick to resent even a fancied injury to a fellow-citizen, who was "illegally arrested, falsely accused, unfairly tried and unjustly sentenced to the full severity of an unconstitutional law," we feel sure that no one would pardon us more freely, or would sooner commend the generous error, than the chivalric editor of the *Mobile Tribune*.

The *Tribune* says: The *JOURNAL* would have been more just to Captain Shotwell and have more correctly apprehended the spirit and letter of the article to which it refers, had its editor taken the trouble to put on his spectacles and have actually read that article. The *JOURNAL*, would, in that case, not have charged us with accepting the verdict of a Bond or Busted card as *prima facie* evidence of the guilt of the condemned. The paragraph referred to by the *JOURNAL* was based on the extract from the New York *Herald*, which preceded our comments.

The True Issue.
Mr. Greeley presents the policy he proposes to pursue in plain and unmistakable terms, and throws down the gauntlet to all comers with the following brave words: "In this faith, and with the distinct understanding that if elected, I shall be the President, not of a party, but of the whole people, I accept your nomination in the confident trust that the masses of our countrymen, North and South, are eager to clasp hands across the bloody chasm, which has too long divided them, forgetting that they have been enemies, in the joyful consciousness that they are, and must henceforth remain, brethren."

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distinctly and in plain terms accepted by the Grant Party. There is no doubt about who we are fighting for.

Mr. Greeley says let us clasp hands across the bloody chasm made by the war. I protest against this advice.

General Grant, speaking through Mr. Boutwell, says: We are advised to clasp hands across the bloody chasm made by the war. I protest against this advice.

Senator Wilson, the candidate for Vice-President of this same Radical horde, spoke in Wilmington the day after Boutwell spoke at Greensboro, and said:

I return here after five years of listening to the stories of the ruin of North Carolina and the desolation of the Federal Government. I cannot see, nor do you feel this desolation of the Federal Government.

Stop, Democrats, stop talking about the desolation of the Federal Government when you know there is no desolation. You cannot open any book of history and show where any country on the face of the earth has been so merciful. No man can stand up here today and assert to the contrary—the denial is the most gigantic lie on record.

This is the issue plain and simple between Greeley the citizen, and Grant the soldier.

"Let it be impressed upon your minds, liberty, be instilled into your children, that the light of the press is the palladium of all the civil, political and religious rights of an Englishman and that the right of jury to return a general verdict in all cases whatever, is an essential part of our Constitution, not to be controlled or limited by the Judges nor in any shape whatsoever by the Legislature."

These words were uttered to Englishmen one hundred years ago! Do not the occurrences of the last few days warn us that they apply with equal truth to North Carolina to-day? It is high time for thinking men to consider what our condition will be when free speech, a free press and free juries no longer exist!

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Mr. Solicitor Cantwell, our ex-Chief Judicial officer, &c., on Monday last, asked His Honor, Judge Russell, to charge the Grand Jury specially that to print and publish in a newspaper, an article calling a man a scoundrel, is sufficient to constitute the offense of libel, even though no special damage may ensue to the party thus designated, and even if it be manifestly absurd and preposterous for such designation to affect injuriously the character, reputation or standing of the party thus designated.

His Honor instructed the jury that such was the law of North Carolina, and further, that they had no right to examine any witness except those sent by the Court.

If we mistake not, every paper in this city and in the State of North Carolina has published articles referring to Messrs. Lowrey and Strong, those distinguished members of the Radical party in Robeson county, commonly called the Lowrey gang, as murderers, thieves, cut-throats and scoundrels. Does Mr. Solicitor Cantwell take up the cudgels in defense of the Lowreys? If a bill of indictment should be sent for libel upon the Lowreys, and if the character of the party said to be libeled is not to be taken into consideration, would not the Grand Jury, under the instructions if Judge Russell, be obliged to find a true bill, or commit perjury? Some things are too plain for even the plainest understanding not to comprehend.

Take another case. Suppose a man had been tried before His Honor, Judge Russell, last week, convicted and sentenced to death for murder, upon a bill of indictment drawn by Mr. Solicitor Cantwell. Suppose that yesterday the *JOURNAL* had referred to the man as the "murderer Smith," or Jones, or Bond, or whatever his name might be, does any sane man suppose that if Mr. Solicitor Cantwell should today send in a bill of indictment for libel for having designated the man as a murderer, the Grand Jury would be obliged to find a true bill against the editors of the *JOURNAL* or commit perjury? Some things are too absurd to talk about.

It will not do to say that it is not a supposable case for Mr. Solicitor Cantwell and His Honor, Judge Russell, to be guilty of such folly. The folly of some men is almost incredible, and of this we might give some notable examples.

erment, and the preservation of the sacred principles of civil liberty itself.

In this review of the political situation, they do not hesitate to say that much, very much depends on the vote of North Carolina. All admit that we did well and nobly on the 1st of August last; and but for the frauds and gross violations of the election laws of this State in that struggle, our victory would have been complete, instead of partial as it was.

We appeal to you now, friends of republican freedom and good government, to be ready for the final contest, so soon to be decided. Work earnestly and manfully for the right. Be vigilant and active in defense of the principles of our noble and inspiring cause of Constitutional liberty. Do not be deceived by false representations, or swayed from the line of duty by the threats of those who thus disgrace official authority, or by any other mode of intimidation or corruption, nor seduced by the blandishments of official patronage, so freely offered by those who live on public plunder and the taxes paid by an impoverished and oppressed people. We urge you to vote as freemen, freely and independently, in the full, intelligent, and untrammeled exercise of all the rights of an American citizen. Be sure to attend your precinct, in your own township, on Tuesday, the 5th of November, and see that your neighbors do likewise. Let the registration books be closely examined, prepared, and proper challenges made to all illegal votes. Challenge, too, on the day of election, every attempt at illegal voting.

It is all important to our success that a fair election and a full vote of our friends, both Democratic-Conservative and Liberal Republican, be cast at the ballot-box. This will secure a certain triumph in North Carolina, and on our vote may depend the result of the Presidential election. We, therefore, earnestly urge our friends to see to this in every township in the State. And we especially suggest that true and active men, some five or six in number, be appointed, at once, to call and see, in person, every voter friendly to our cause, and earnestly insist on his going to the election, and, if necessary, assist in getting him there, and assure him that there is a general understanding among our friends that every man is to vote at this election, if entitled to do so. This duty is urged upon our friends and expected to be done in every township, of every county in North Carolina. Universally pursued, as we expect it to be in every county, this course will ensure us a glorious victory. And success in North Carolina, in this new trial for peace and freedom, honesty and local self-government, will not only be an honor, ever to be held in remembrance by our own people, but may save the entire nation from the dangers which now so fearfully beset and environ civil liberty itself. Let our watch-words,

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